

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00869 152110Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4425

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FOR ARA/CAR AMBASSADOR OSTRANDER FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP NS US OVIP (OSTRANDER, NANCY)

SUBJ: ARRIVAL AND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. UPON RECEIPT OF CONFIRMATION OF YOUR ARRIVAL DATE OF JUNE 26 (STATE 145255), I IMMEDIATELY INFORMED MINISTRY FOR GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENTIAL PALACE REQUESTING THEIR COOPERATION IN SCHEDULING INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL AND NOTING THE SHORT INTERVAL BETWEEN THEN AND JULY 4. WE HAVE REPORTED ELSEWHERE HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ARRON, WHO IS ALSO PRIME MINISTER, WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON VISITS TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL PRECISELY DURING THAT TIME PERIOD AND GOS PREFERENCE (CONVEYED TO ME JUNE 15) IS NOT TO SCHEDULE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN.

2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HEINEMANN WILL BE ACCOMPANYING ARRON AND BOTH WILL BE ABSENT FROM JUNE 27-JULY 7. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IS DEPARTING PARAMARIBO NEXT WEEK TO PREPARE ARRON'S VISIT TO CARACAS AND WILLHOMOT RETURN BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. MINISTRY IS UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO SCHEDULE AN OCCASION AS IMPORTANT AS CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION WHEN THE THREE RANKING
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MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

3. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EARLIEST LIKELY PRESENTATION DATE WOULD BE JULY 13 SINCE THURSDAY IS THE USUAL DAY FOR SUCH CEREMONIES. WE ARE THUS CONFRONTED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO REGARDING CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH.

4. WITHOUT ALTERING YOUR ARRIVAL DATE, OPTIONS AS I SEE THEM ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) WE COULD POSTPONE CELEBRATION OF A NATIONAL DAY UNTIL AFTER YOUR CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, PERHAPS ON THE SAME DAY AS THE CEREMONY; (B) I COULD SERVE AS HOST FOR A NOONTIME FUNCTION ON THE FOURTH SIMILAR TO THOSE WE HAVE HELD THE PAST TWO YEARS; (C) WE COULD ASK PERMISSION FOR YOU TO HBIZ A SMALL FUNCTION ON THE FOURTH AS AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE, BUT I DO NOT THINK WE COULD EXPECT THE PRESIDENT AND PERHAPS MOST CABINET MEMBERS TO ATTEND.

5. IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF YOUR ARRIVING EARLY IN THE WEEK OF JUNE 19, WE COULD ASK WHETHER CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION COULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE. SIMILARLY, YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER POSTPONING YOUR ARRIVAL HERE UNTIL AFTER JULY 4, BUT THAT WOULD DEPRIVE US OF A WEEK'S VALUABLE TIME IN WHAT IS ALREADY A SHORT OVERLAP.

6. ON BALANCE, I WOULD FAVOR YOUR KEEPING TO YOUR ORIGINAL TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND EITHER OF THE FIRST TWO OPTIONS LISTED IN PARA 4, I.E. POSTPONEMENT OF A NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION OR HAVING ME HOST ONE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO AND I WILL SEE TO APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS HERE.
LORTON

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